

## Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 GAC-01 NIC-01

SAJ-01 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /115 W  
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R 241420 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5204  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
USMISSION BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1528

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI PFOR RO UR

SUBJECT: GRECHKO VISIT: SPEECHES REAFFIRM SOVIET- ROMANIAN  
DIFFERENCES

1. SUMMARY. ALTHOUGH APRIL 20-24 VISIT OF MARSHAL GRECHKO,  
SOVIET MINISTER OF DEFENSE, HAS RECEIVED FULL PRESS PLAY,  
FLAVOR OF VISIT DID NOT COME THROUGH UNTIL TODAY' S PUBLICATION  
OF ABRIDGED SPEECHES BY GRECHKO AND HIS ROMANIAN HOST,  
MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE ION IONITA, AT APRIL 23 MEETING  
WITH MEMBERS OF BUCHAREST GARRISON AT MILITARY ACADEMY.  
SPEECHES UNEQUIVOCALLY REAFFIRM CONTINUED SHARP DIFFERENCES  
OVER BASIC NATURE OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN USSR AND OTHER  
SOCIALIST STATES, WITH GRECHKO EMPHASIZING " COHESION" AND  
IONITA STRESSING " COOPERATION" AND PATRIOTIC DEFENSE. IN  
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BLUNT TERMS, GRECHKO STATED IT WAS CPSU' S " INTERNATIONAL DUTY TO CONTRIBUTE BY EVERY MEANS TO STRENGTHENING THE COHESION AND POWER OF THE WORLD SOCIALIST SYSTEM." WHEREAS GRECHKO' S APRIL 23 MEETING WITH CEAUSESCU AND MAURER WAS DESCRIBED AS " WARM AND COMRADELY", MILITARY ACADEMY SPEECHES BETRAY DISTINCT COOLNESS. END SUMMARY.

2. CONSIDERING STATUS OF VISITOR, GRECHKO VISIT HAS RECEIVED FULL BUT NOT EXAGGERATED LOCAL PRESS PLAY. ACCOUNTS HAVE CENTERED CHIEFLY ON CEREMONIAL ASPECTS OF GRECHKO' S SCHEDULE ( LAYING OF WREATH, DINNERS, VISITS TO NEW HOUSING AREAS, ETC.) WHICH GIVE LITTLE HINT OF FLAVOR OF VISIT. POSSIBLY TO FLATTER SOVIET GUESTS AT LITTLE EXPENSE, SCINTEIA APRIL 21 TOOK UNUSUAL STEP OF PUBLISHING PHOTO OF GRECHKO' S AIRPORT ARRIVAL ( USUALLY RESERVED FOR HEADS OF STATE OR PARTY). MEETING WITH CEAUSESCU APRIL 23 ( ALSO ATTENDED BY PRIME MINISTER MAURER) WAS DESCRIBED AS " WARM AND COMRADELY" WITH EMPHASIS PLACED ON INCREASED " COOPERATION" BETWEEN SOVIET AND ROMANIAN PEOPLES, PARTIES, AND ARMED FORCES.

3. HOWEVER, PUBLISHED EXTRACTS OF SPEECHES BY MARSHAL GRECHKO AND GENERAL IONITA AT MILITARY ACADEMY APRIL 23 REVEAL CONTINUED SHARP DIFFERENCES ON BASIC NATURE OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SOCIALIST STATES. CLEAR CONTRAST BETWEEN GRECHKO' S REPEATED INSISTENCE ON " COHESION AND UNITY OF THE PEOPLES AND ARMIES OF SOCIALIST STATES" AND IONITA' S MANY REFERENCES TO " COOPERATION WITH ARMIES OF WARSAW PACT STATES AND ALL OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES" IS UNAMBIGUOUS AND DOUBTLESS INTENTIONALLY SO.

4. IONITA SET FORTH WELL- KNOWN ROMANIAN POSITION OF " COLLABORATION" WITH SOVIET UNION AND WARSAW PACT STATES, COUPLES WITH SIMULTANEOUS FURTHERING OF RELATIONS " WITH EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD WITHOUT DISTINCTION AS TO ITS SOCIAL SYSTEM" IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE " SPIRIT OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE." HE REITERATED STANDARD ROMANIAN PRINCIPLES OF RELATIONS BETWEEN PARTIES AND STATES ( NON- INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS) AND REFERRED NOT ONCE TO ROMANIAN- SOVIET TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP, COOPERATION AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE OR NEED FOR JOINT WP DEFENSE AGAINST " NATO BLOC" -- BOTH BEING SUBJECTS TREATED IN SOME DETAIL BY GRECHKO.  
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5. IONITA STRESSED THAT ROMANIAN ARMED FORCES WERE TOTALLY SUBSERVIENT TO THE DIRECTIVES OF PARTY AND STATE, AND PROFESSED THAT " THE PARTY HAD CREATED AN ARMY OF A NEW TYPE, WHICH HAS NO INTEREST OTHER THAN DEVOTED SERVICE IN THE CAUSE OF THE PEOPLE, LIBERTY AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE COUNTRY." EMPHASIZING THE ARMY' S " PATRIOTIC MOTIVATION", IONITA SAID THAT EVERYONE

FROM SOLDIER TO GENERAL WAS READY TO FULFILL " ANY MISSION"  
GIVEN IT BY THE PARTY AND STATE LEADERSHIP. HE NOTED EVER  
MORE MODERN QUIPMENT OF ARMED FORCES " IN KEEPING WITH GROWTH  
OF THE COUNTRY' S ECONOMIC POTENTIAL", DEVELOPMENT OF ROMANIA' S  
OWN ARMAMENT PRODUCTION, AND " THE PARTICULAR ATTENTION  
ACCORDED THE PREPARATION OF THE ENTIRE POPULATION FOR THE  
DEFENSE OF THE MOTHERLAND."

6. WHEREAS IONITA MADE NO REFERENCE TO ROMANIAN- SOVIET  
MILITARY DISCUSSIONS, GRECHKO BEGAN HIS REMARKS BY UNDERSCORING  
( OR SEEKING TO CONVEY) SUBSTANTIVE ASPECT OF HIS VISIT. HE  
REFERRED TO " THE NUMBER OF PROBLEMS DISCUSSED WITH THE PARTY  
AND STATE LEADERSHIP" WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS HAVING TAKEN  
PLACE IN SPIRIT OF " CONTINUED COOPERATION BETWEEN PEOPLES  
AND ARMED FORCES OF OUR BROTHERLY COUNTRIES."

7. AFTER DESCRIPTION OF STRENGTH AND MODERNITY OF SOVIET  
ARMED FORCES (" WHICH NOW HAVE ALL THAT IS NECESSARY FO DEFEND  
THE COUNTRY SUCCESSFULLY"), GRECHKO BLUNTLY CONVEYED THE VIEW  
THAT " THE CPSU CONSIDERS THAT IT IS ITS INTERNATIONAL DUTY  
TO CONTRIBUTE BY EVERY MEANS TO STRENGTHENING THE COHESION  
AND POWER OF THE WORLD SOCIALIST SYSTEM." FURHTERMORE,  
GRECHKO SAID THAT " THE CPSU, THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT, AND  
OUR ENTIRE PEOPLE AND MILITARY WILL NOT SPARE ANY EFFORT TO  
ATTAIN THIS SUPREME END."

8. ASSIGNMENT OF VIRGIL TROFIN AS HIGHEST RANKING RCP OFFICIAL  
TO ACCOMPANY GRECHKO DURING VISIT ( TOGETHER WITH IONITA) IS  
CURIOUS AND POSSIBLY DESIGNED INDICATE CERTAIN DEGREE OF GOR  
RESERVE IN TREATMENT OF SOVIET VISITOR. WHEREAS TROFIN AS  
MEMBER OF PRESIDUM AND AS A DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER HOLDS  
SUFFICIENT RANK AND TITLE FOR THE TASK, HIS PARTY STANDING  
IS AMBIGUOUS, HAVING BEEN PROGRSSIVELY DEMOTED IN FUNCTION  
TO PRESENT POST AS MINISTER OF DOMESTIC TRADE.  
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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

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## Message Attributes

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